



February 9th, 2018

Everyone,

The February 6th meeting of the Fire EMS Caucus was well attended by the Fire Service - many thanks.

You can view the recorded meeting on the following link from the Connecticut Network:

<http://www.ctn.state.ct.us/ctnplayer.asp?odID=14951>

Caucus co-chair Rep. Brian Ohler explained that the members of the caucus are presently being polled regarding their support for issues of concern to the Fire Service this session. As soon as the results are released by the chairs, I will forward them in a CSFA Legislative Update.

CSFA Education Chairman Rob Norton presented budget, demographic and other information to the caucus in response to the legislators' request for that information during the first Fire EMS Legislative Caucus Meeting back in December. Norton also invited the members of the caucus co-chairs and the Training and Education sub-committee to the next CSFA Education Committee meeting. That meeting will be held at the Connecticut Fire Academy in Windsor Locks on Tuesday February 20th, 2018 at 7:00 PM. This will be a closed meeting. **The next meeting of the Fire EMS Caucus is scheduled for March 6th, 2018 at 10AM in Room 1E at the Legislative Office Building in Hartford.** This caucus meeting will be open to the public, and again, I ask that members of the Fire Service attend in Class A uniform if schedules permit.

Frank Ricci from the New Haven Fire Department spoke briefly and mentioned that he hoped the caucus would support PTSD coverage for firefighters. Ricci proposed that a task force be organized to investigate how PTSD affects firefighters.

Chief Dave Billings of the Career Fire Chiefs Association addressed the caucus on the importance of the Regional Fire Schools to rural, suburban and urban communities. Chief Billings spoke of how the Connecticut Fire Academy and a strong system of the Regional Fire Schools are necessary to deliver the type of training for recruits as well as continuing education for both career and volunteer firefighters. Chief Billings also spoke of how career and combination departments can reduce several expenses and save time by using the Region Fire School system.

Yesterday, Chief Denis McCarthy and I met with leadership of the Joint Committee on Public Safety and Security (Sen. Tim Larson, Rep. J.P. Sredzinski and Rep. Joe Verrengia) to discuss our legislative issues for this session. Chief McCarthy and I presented leadership the list of ideas that came out of the CSFA

Annual Legislative meeting at the end of last year. We outlined what the top issues are and Rep. Sredzinski assured us that as a member of the Fire EMS Caucus he would keep the Public Safety Committee apprised of caucus consensus regarding our issues once the caucus completes polling its membership. Public safety Committee leadership also responded positively to the legislation that will be sponsored by Sen. George Logan in an effort to secure seed funding for an ultimately self-sustaining multi-municipality Fire Service Recruitment Program. DESPP Commissioner Shiriro and the Career Fire Chiefs have been working on this initiative for the past several months.

So far, there has been only one bill introduced related to the Fire Service:

H.B. 5003 - **AN ACT EXEMPTING SMOKE DETECTORS AND CARBON MONOXIDE DETECTORS FROM THE SALES AND USE TAXES.**

To exempt smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors from the sales and use taxes.

I will attach a CFSA House Bill Status Report to my legislative update next week.

Sincerely,

Leon Collins

Legislative Representative

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